

**REMARKS**

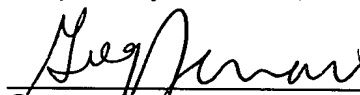
Claims 22, 23, 24 and 26 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies and place the claims in better compliance with U.S. practice.

New claims 27, 28 -31 cover the subject matter eliminated from the amended claims.

In view of the above, an early allowance is respectfully requested.

Novartis  
Corporate Intellectual Property  
One Health Plaza, Building 104  
East Hanover, NJ 07936-1080  
(862) 778-7831

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gregory D. Ferraro  
Attorney for Applicant  
Reg. No. 36,134

Date: January 6, 2006